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ACF: R&D can be a carbuilder's best friend

February 8, 1982

RAILWAY AGE

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The good-track roads: Southern

RAILWAY AGE

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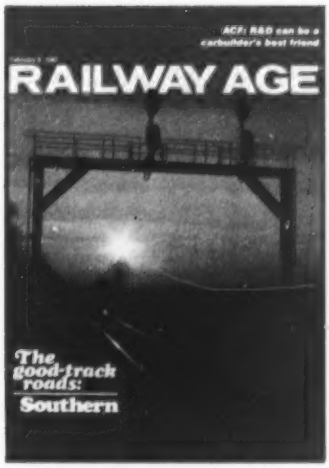
FEATURES



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14 The good-track roads: Southern
This railroad's "waste not, want not" philosophy is nowhere more evident than in the m/w field. Early to mechanize (and economize), Southern today has an excellent track structure acquired at relatively low cost.

22 ACF's R&D commitment: The proof is in the product
It isn't easy to satisfy the demands of two distinct constituencies—the railroads on the one hand, railroad shippers on the other. A continuing commitment to research and development has helped ACF to do just this.

26 A capital year for Mexican rails
South of the border (down Mexico way), there's no talk of recession. The railroads are a growth industry; this year alone will see the investment of $1 billion in capital improvements for National Railways of Mexico.

30 Getting a railroad education: REB makes it easy
In its 73 years of operation, the Railway Educational Bureau in Omaha has helped 175,000 railroad employees become more expert in their crafts. It continues to develop new courses as new needs develop.

32 Honolulu: HART is on hold
Fearing federal budget cuts, the mayor has cancelled engineering studies for a rail/bus transit system. Now, some second guessing is going on.

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COVER: Southern main line near Manassas, Va., photographed by Roy Blanchard.

Market

CARLOADINGS

Loadings of revenue freight in the week ended Jan. 23 totaled 364,381 cars, according to the Association of American Railroads. This was a decrease of 72,347 cars, or 16.6%, compared with the corresponding week last year. Ton-miles generated by carloadings in the week ended Jan. 23 are estimated at 15.9 billion, a decrease of 13.5% below the corresponding week of 1981.

REVENUE FREIGHT CARLOADINGS

Commodity	Jan. 23 week	Jan. 16 week
Grain	25,861	22,682
Other farm products	4,715	4,778
Metallic ores	18,829	17,533
Coal	104,168	88,326
Crushed stone, gravel & sand	7,685	6,215
Nonmetallic minerals	10,213	9,787
Grain mill products	13,986	13,406
Food & kindred products	15,173	13,826
Primary forest products	16,979	10,785
Lumber & wood products (except furniture)	5,558	4,659
Pulp, paper & allied products	16,953	15,919
Chemicals & allied products	22,482	21,063
Petroleum products	5,690	5,401
Stone, clay & glass products	9,716	8,483
Coke	4,371	4,672
Metals & products	11,392	10,383
Motor vehicles & equipment	12,519	11,218
Waste & scrap materials	9,494	8,478
Forwarder & shipper assn. traffic	8,513	7,578
All other carloads	39,942	35,500
LCL traffic	142	174
Total Cars Loaded	**364,381**	**320,866**
Cumulative total,	1982	1981
4 weeks	**1,334,754**	**1,607,972**
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	**58.1**	**67.9**

PIGGYBACK LOADINGS

U.S. piggyback loadings for the week ended Jan. 16 totaled 28,473 cars (7.5% above the corresponding 1981 week) and 53,052 trailers or containers (up 5.2% from 1981). Cumulative volume for the first 3 weeks of 1982 is 81,059 (up 2.1% from 1981) and 149,504 trailers or containers (up 4.5% from 1981).

● *City of Chicago.*—Awarded a $5-million contract to Computer Sciences Corp. to provide a communication system for Chicago Transit Authority's new 7.6-mile O'Hare Airport rapid transit extension. The 16-month contract calls for the supply and installation of radio, public address, closed circuit television, cable network, and supervisory control systems.

● *Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.*—Is building a $48 million, three-structure maintenance and operation complex including a 200-vehicle storage yard. Features include ENDURO stainless steel exterior siding, underground heating grid, skylighting, and a track transfer table that will move cars over an inspection pit to and from repair tracks.

● *Indonesia.*—Awarded a $45-million, five-year contract to Canadian Pacific Consulting Services Ltd. (CPCS), of Montreal, for assistance in the design and supervision of upgrading a railway and telecommunications network in South Sumatra. The network is to serve the giant Bukit Asam coal mine, which upon completion in 1985 is to start producing a minimum of 2.5 million tons of thermal coal annually.

● *Norfolk & Western.*—Equipment program for 1982 calls for construction of 1,214 open-top hoppers at the Roanoke shops at a cost of $41 million, and purchase of 25 "high-adhesion, fuel-efficient" locomotives costing $29 million. NW's total 1982 capital budget is $185.4 million, an increase of $57.3 million over 1981.

● *Soo Line.*—Will spend more for fixed-plant improvements and less for equipment in 1982, with budgeted capital expenditures of $17.3 million for plant and $6.7 million for equipment. Capital improvements will be concentrated in the areas of rail renewal, upgrading of the roadway-machinery fleet, extension of ctc, bridge renewals and improvements to shop facilities. Estimated 1982 maintenance expenditures are $83 million for m/w (up from $73 million in 1981) and $66 million for m/e (up from $59 million last year).

● *Vapor/Autelca.*—Have entered into an agreement under which Vapor will represent and eventually manufacture Autelca fare collection equipment in the U.S. and Canada. Shepard Transitron, former agents for Autelca equipment, will continue to be associated with Vapor and Autelca in sales promotion. Autelca, a Swiss firm, will have its first U.S. fare-collection installation in San Diego.